

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** held on **WEDNESDAY, 3RD MAY, 2023** at 7.00 pm in The Council Chamber, Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1BD

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT

Councillors Jonathan Simpson (Chair), Lorna Greenwood (Vice-Chair), Meric Apak, Pat Callaghan, Matt Cooper, Eddie Hanson, Sharon Hardwick, Matthew Kirk, Izzy Lenga, Sylvia McNamara, Shah Miah and Gio Spinella

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT

Councillors Jenny Headlam-Wells, Richard Olszewski and Nanouche Umeadi

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Licensing Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. GUIDANCE ON HYBRID MEETINGS

As there were no remote participants, this item was not considered.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Olszewski, Jenny Headlam-Wells, and Nanouche Umeadi.

3. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STATUTORY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, COMPULSORY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND VOLUNTARY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Broadcasting of the meeting

The Chair announced that the meeting was being broadcast live to the internet and the broadcast would remain available for six months, after which it could be made

available on request. Anyone addressing the meeting was deemed to be consenting to having their contribution recorded and broadcast and to the use of those recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

Women's Safety and 'Ask for Angela'

The Chair announced that work had been undertaken as part of International Women's Day to promote women's safety and there had been a successful drive to get more licensed premises to sign up to the 'Ask for Angela' Scheme. The Committee commended this work. An update report on the Council's women's safety work was welcomed by the Committee.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputation requests.

6. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

7. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2023.

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

8. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING (SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES) SUB-COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing (Sexual Entertainment Venue) Sub-Committee that took place on 14th March 2023.

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

9. CAMDEN'S STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2023 - 2026 UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Community Services.

The Public Protection and Licensing Manager introduced the report and advised that under the Gambling Act 2005, the Council was required to have a Gambling Policy in place (the Policy), which needed to be updated every three years or as required. The policy had been updated to address changing legislation and concerns and revised policies included displaying additional signage in gambling premises, to ensure compliance letters were sent to gambling premises and inspections were scheduled.

It was reported that due to the cost-of-living crisis, individuals who engaged in gambling were increasingly turning to gambling to supplement their income, particularly in online gambling. Although there were no local regulations on online gambling, concerns had been shared with the gambling commission.

The Government had published the White Paper “High stakes: gambling reform for the digital age” which set out the government’s plan for reform of gambling regulation following the review of the Gambling Act 2005.

The Public Protection and Licensing Manager provided the following information in response to questions:

- The Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 will address concerns around alcohol and cumulative impact areas.
- A consultation was conducted from December to March, with only one response received. Due to the low response rate Licensing Officers checked with statutory services whether they wished to provide a response, and it was confirmed that the consultees agreed with the policy, and that no further response was required.
- The one respondent to the consultation had requested that the cost-of-living crisis be referenced in the policy, so the draft policy was updated accordingly.
- Regarding protection for vulnerable individuals, it was recommended that betting shops signpost regular customers to services like the National Problem Gambling Clinic, display clear signage, and encourage engagement with customers. Monitoring visits would be undertaken to ensure compliance.
- The introduction of spot checks, allowing Local Authorities to check compliance and collaborate with the gambling commission to resolve issues, was introduced by the White Paper.
- As people accessed gambling premises in neighbouring boroughs, cross-borough partnerships, meetings with other authorities, and data sharing were used to inform the gambling policy.
- Regular inspections were conducted, and Licensing Officers were confident that the premises in the Borough were operating according to the conditions of their licenses.
- Regarding the Gambling White Paper and whether the policy would be updated before 2026, the Public Protection Manager confirmed that the

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policy would be updated if legislation changed, and a response to the White Paper would be prepared by the Council.

Members made the following comments:

- Concern was expressed that people that win large amounts of money in gambling premises have to wait for the cash to be bought over from other shops, so stay in betting shop and continue to gamble.
- There was anecdotal evidence from other boroughs that people who had a block on their bank account to prevent them making transactions at gambling premises had been able to go to casinos and gamble because they had been registered as restaurants, so the transactions were not blocked.
- Problem Gambling had been added to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee work programme.

Therefore, it was

RESOLVED –

THAT the Licensing Committee:

- i) Note the consultation responses to the proposed Statement of Gambling Policy; and
- ii) Recommend that Council approve and adopt the Statement of Gambling Policy 2023-2026.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was none.

The meeting ended at 7.34 pm.

CHAIR

Contact Officer: Rebecca Taylor

Telephone No: 0207 974 8177

E-Mail: Rebecca.Taylor@camden.gov.uk

MINUTES END